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Letter dated 4 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Security Council the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 31 August 2006 on the recent developments in the Gali district of Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the recent developments in the Gali district

The Sukhumi separatist regime continues a spiral of gross and mass violation of human rights on the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia. The so-called government of Abkhazia, without confining itself to ethnic cleansing of Georgians recognized and condemned repeatedly in the final documents of the summits of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Budapest (1995), Lisbon (1997) and Istanbul (1999), remains relentless in its pursuit of its inhuman discriminatory policy and acts against the ethnic Georgian population of the region. These acts take place against the background of military hysteria holding a grip on Sukhumi.

Georgians in the Gali district were made to dig trenches for the so-called Abkhazian armed forces, which is an example of the universally banned practice of forced labour, of which the international community was duly informed.

Presently, separatists are engaged intensively in efforts to mobilize Georgian young people into the so-called Abkhazian armed forces. The so-called conscription of dozens of local Georgian men that takes place through the use of completely illegal and forceful methods provides a sharp reminder of the times when conscripts were drafted into the Red Army under the threat of force. The Bolshevik experience seems to be an example worth following for the Sukhumi regime.

These violations take place within sight of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and in actual practice, Russian peacekeeping forces that do nothing to suppress flagrant and mass violations of human rights, as they are mandated to do under paragraph 6, chapter 2 of the regulations approved by the CIS Council of Heads of State on the collective peacekeeping forces in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Needless to say, Russian peacekeepers cannot, against this background, ensure the protection of the safety, dignity and human rights of the peaceful population, including internally displaced persons and refugees, as prescribed by Security Council resolutions 1524 (2004), 1582 (2005), 1615 (2005) and 1666 (2006).

This fact demonstrates yet again the reluctance of the Russian peacekeeping forces to duly perform their obligations and provides an added proof of the correctness of the Georgian Parliament's decision to withdraw Russian peacekeepers from the conflict zones, replace them by an international component and grant a peacekeeping mandate to a genuinely neutral and impartial side.

Georgia urges the international community and international organizations to assess duly the separatist regime's unlawful acts and bring into action all levers in order to end the violation of human rights in the Gali district of Abkhazia, Georgia. Against the background of recent developments, it becomes patently obvious who is against the peace process and whose acts are behind the danger posed daily to the ethnic Georgian population of the region.